

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 17.901

HEALTH CARE FOR A VIETNAM VETERAN'S CHILD WITH SPINA BIFIDA

SOURCE: 62 FR 51284, Sept. 30, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 17.900 Spina bifida—provision of health care.

(a) VA shall provide a Vietnam veteran's child who has been determined under § 3.814 of this title to suffer from spina bifida with such health care as the Secretary determines is needed by the child for the spina bifida or any disability that is associated with such condition. This is not intended to be a comprehensive insurance plan and does not cover health care unrelated to spina bifida.

(b) Health care provided under this section shall be provided directly by VA, by contract with an approved health care provider, or by other arrangement with an approved health care provider. VA may inform spina bifida patients, parents, or guardians that health care may be available at not-for-profit charitable entities.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 101(2), 1801-1806)

NOTE TO § 17.900: VA provides payment under this section only for health care relating to spina bifida or a disability that is associated with such condition. VA is the exclusive payer for services paid under this section regardless of any third party insurer, Medicare, Medicaid, health plan, or any other plan or program providing health care coverage. Any third-party insurer, Medicare, Medicaid, health plan, or any other plan or program providing health care coverage would be responsible according to its provisions for payment for health care not relating to spina bifida and not constituting a disability that is associated with such condition (accordingly, in the usual case claims for health care for other than covered services for spina bifida and disabilities associated with spinal bifida would be submitted to an insurer, Medicare, Medicaid, health plan, or other program providing health care coverage).

§ 17.901 Definitions.

For purposes of §§ 17.900 through 17.905—

Approved health care provider means a health care provider approved by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Defense Civilian Health and Medical Program of the

Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS), Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA), Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO), or any health care provider approved for providing health care pursuant to a state license or certificate. An entity or individual shall be deemed to be an approved health care provider only when acting within the scope of the approval, license, or certificate.

Child means the same as defined at § 3.814(c) of this title.

Habilitative and rehabilitative care means such professional counseling, guidance services and treatment programs (other than vocational training under 38 U.S.C. 1804) as are necessary to develop, maintain, or restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of a disabled person.

Health care means home care, hospital care, nursing home care, outpatient care, preventive care, habilitative and rehabilitative care, case management, and respite care; and includes the training of appropriate members of a child's family or household in the care of the child; and the provision of such pharmaceuticals, supplies (including continence-related supplies such as catheters, pads, and diapers), equipment (including durable medical equipment), devices, appliances, assistive technology, direct transportation costs to and from approved health care providers (including any necessary costs for meals and lodging en route, and accompaniment by an attendant or attendants), and other materials as the Secretary determines necessary.

Health care provider means any entity or individual who furnishes health care, including specialized spina bifida clinics, health care plans, insurers, organizations, and institutions.

Home care means medical care, habilitative and rehabilitative care, preventive health services, and health-related services furnished to an individual in the individual's home or other place of residence.

Hospital care means care and treatment furnished to an individual who has been admitted to a hospital as a patient.

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Nursing home care means care and treatment furnished to an individual who has been admitted to a nursing home as a resident.

Outpatient care means care and treatment, including preventive health services, furnished to an individual other than hospital care or nursing home care.

Preventive care means care and treatment furnished to prevent disability or illness, including periodic examinations, immunizations, patient health education, and such other services as the Secretary determines necessary to provide effective and economical preventive health care.

Respite care means care furnished on an intermittent basis for a limited period to an individual who resides primarily in a private residence when such care will help the individual continue residing in such private residence.

Spina bifida means all forms and manifestations of spina bifida except spina bifida occulta (this includes complications or associated medical conditions which are adjunct to spina bifida according to the scientific literature).

Vietnam veteran means the same as defined at § 3.814(c) of this title.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 101(2), 1801–1806, Pub. L. 105–114)

§ 17.902 Preauthorization.

(a) Preauthorization from a preauthorization specialist of the Health Administration Center is required for health care consisting of case management, durable medical equipment, home care, professional counseling, mental health services, respite care, training, substance abuse treatment, dental services, transplantation services, or travel (other than mileage at the General Services Administration rate for privately owned automobiles). This care will be authorized only in those cases where there is a demonstrated medical need. Applications for provision of health care requiring preauthorization shall either be made by telephone at (800) 733–8387, or in writing to Health Administration Center, P.O. Box 65025, Denver, CO 80206–9025. The application shall contain the following:

(1) Name of child,

(2) Child's social security number,

(3) Name of veteran,

(4) Veteran's social security number,

(5) Type of service requested,

(6) Medical justification,

(7) Estimated cost, and

(8) Name, address, and telephone number of provider.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, preauthorization shall not be required for a condition for which failure to receive immediate treatment poses a serious threat to life or health. Such emergency care should be reported by telephone at (800) 733–8387 to the Health Administration Center, Denver, CO within 72 hours of the emergency.

(Paperwork requirements were approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 2900–0577.)

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 101(2), 1801–1806, Pub. L. 105–114)

§ 17.903 Payment.

(a)(1) Payment under this section will be determined utilizing the same payment methodologies as provided for under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) (see 38 CFR 17.84).

(2) As a condition of payment, the services must have occurred on or after October 1, 1997, and must have occurred on or after the date the child was determined eligible for benefits under § 3.814 of this title. Also, as a condition of payment, claims from approved health care providers for health care provided under this section must be filed with the Health Administration Center, P.O. Box 65025, Denver, CO 80206–9025, no later than:

(i) One year after the date of service; or

(ii) In the case of inpatient care, one year after the date of discharge; or

(iii) In the case of retroactive approval for health care, 180 days following beneficiary notification of authorization.

(3) Claims for health care provided under the provisions of §§ 17.900 through 17.905 shall contain, as appropriate, the information set forth in paragraphs (a)(3)(i) through (a)(3)(v) of this section.